

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 18, 2015

The Honorable Charlie Dent, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Military Construction,  
Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
HVC-227 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sanford Bishop, Ranking  
Member  
Subcommittee on Military Construction,  
Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dent and Ranking Member Bishop:

We are writing in support of President Obama's FY 2016 budget request for \$139 million in funding for the Livermore Realignment Project. This funding would provide for construction of a 158,000 square foot community based outpatient clinic (CBOC) in French Camp, California.

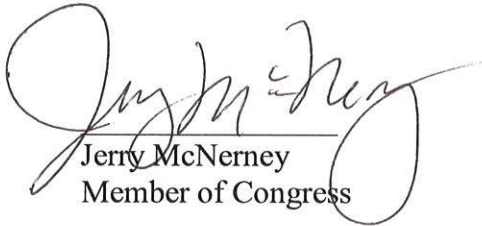
Congress approved of the Central Valley CBOC and community living center as part of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) own Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services initiative in 2004. In 2010, Congress appropriated \$55 million for the purchase of 52 acres of land and to fund construction planning. The French Camp project is shovel ready as the land has been acquired and the facility has been designed by an architect.

Veterans have sacrificed to protect our freedom and democratic ideal, and they deserve access to state-of-the-art health care facilities close to home. Too many of the veterans who live in the Central Valley have to commute in excess of six hours roundtrip to make it to the VA Palo Alto Medical Center for health care services, meaning that routine appointments can often take an entire day.

Central Valley veterans have waited patiently for construction of a new French Camp CBOC for years. Once completed, the facility will serve approximately 87,000 veterans in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Calaveras, and Tuolumne Counties among others. The French Camp outpatient clinic would offer an array of services: primary care, mental health care, radiology, audiology, physical and occupational therapy, dental, and other specialty services through a telehealth system.

The use of VA facilities has grown from 80 percent to 120 percent, but lack of adjustments to this growth has led to the erosion of facilities and gaps in access. Moreover, a growing backlog in construction projects and infrastructure is leading to veterans having to wait too long to receive the care they need and deserve. Congress must appropriate sufficient funding to help the VA close its major construction gaps.

Our veterans are real heroes, and we know that you are committed to maintaining the highest level of care for veterans. By appropriating the funding requested in President Obama's FY16 budget for the Livermore Realignment Project, it will ensure that veterans will have access to state-of-the-art medical care services. We look forward to continuing to work with you. Thank you for your leadership and attention to this important issue. If you have any questions or for further information, please contact Exodie Roe in Rep. McNerney's office at X5-1947 or Christopher Del Beccaro in Rep. Denham's office at X5-4540.



Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



Jeff Denham  
Member of Congress